

# Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Vol. 1 No. 5 • www.saipantribune.com

A PUBLICATION OF THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Saturday, February 25, 2006

## Bayani

Hundreds of Filipinos here in the CNMI, bound by a common purpose of upgrading their technical and culinary skills, came together to form a group that would foster camaraderie and friendship among them.

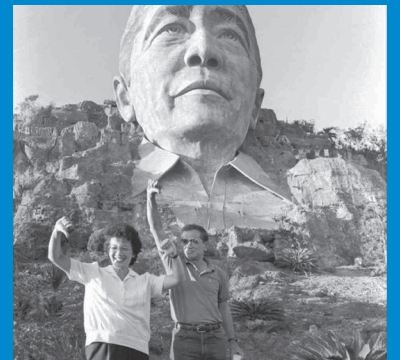
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## People Power

Even nearly a decade in the Philippines inadequately prepared me for the dramatic events that unfolded over those four February days 20 years ago this week.

Page 5



MARY DONOAN-DAIT

## The Proud Ifugao

By MARCONI CALINDAS  
REPORTER

When she learned about the recent tragedy that hit her home country, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Welfare Officer Mary Donovan-Dait closed her eyes and offered silent prayers for the families who lost their lives and their loved ones who remain missing.

Nerve-racking and heartbreaking memories swirled back in her mind, as she recalled her own experience when Mt. Pinatubo's eruption displaced hundreds of thousands of Filipinos from their homes. This happened, she said, during her 20-years of social work when she was still connected with the then Department of Social Welfare in her hometown in Ifugao, a Cordillera province in North Luzon, Philippines.

Along with hundreds of social workers in the Philippines, Dait was sent to help the people from Pampanga cope at evacuation centers and shelters.

She recalled that, when she reached the evacuation centers, her heart was crushed in an instant to see the collective grief and bereavement that could be seen etched in the faces of hundreds of families gathered at the center. Some were weeping. Some were just staring blankly, in deep torpor over what lies ahead in their lives.

Dait said it was her first time to see thousands of tents pitched on white sandy expanses—lahar that had turned solid. She said the area was a complete white tapestry—blank, unremitting, and cold.

She said it was her first time to sleep on sand. She remembered trembling when a sudden roar from afar would wake them all up in the middle of the night. That roar was the angry lahar

THE PROUD  
Page 2



## School roof believed found in mudslide

By OLIVER TEVES  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

GUINSAUGON, Philippines (AP)—Aerial photographs spotted what is believed to be the roof of an elementary school swamped by a landslide, and rescue workers will undertake a risky mission to check it, the provincial governor said Thursday.

The roof was spotted far from what was believed to have been its original site. Rescue workers, who were forced off the disaster zone by heavy rains Thursday morning, planned to try to reach the roof on Friday after a former resident is brought in to confirm that it came from the school, provincial Gov. Rosette Lerias told a news conference.

"This is the first time we've seen the green roof of a building that resembles very much the green roof of the elementary school that we've been looking for," Lerias said.

SCHOOL Page 2

A young survivor from the landslide-devastated village of Guinsaugon, Philippines, weeps as he waits at a refugee center Thursday, Feb. 23, 2006, in St. Bernard, Philippines on the southern island of Leyte.

# Little box *for a* big cause

A little blue box has been placed at the receiving counter of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration office in the Nauru Building to enable the Commonwealth's Overseas Filipino Workers to donate funds to help victims of the recent landslide in southern Leyte.

The OFW Support Group has launched and is now spearheading the fund drive for the families affected by the landslide last week.

In a letter signed by the support group officers, it said, "We are appealing to the generosity of all Filipinos in the CNMI and their friends for support of this project."

Chairs Gabriel De Guzman, Daniel Nico-medes, Mario Aquillo, Ignacio Banadera Jr. Ofelia Lopez, and Tina Marie Alverio signed the letter of request for assistance last Tuesday.

The group said the collection from the fund drive would be remitted to the Phil-

ippine National Disaster Coordinating Council for purchase of food and other emergency needs of the affected families.

The donations will also be used for the food and other needs of the members of the Volunteers Aid Workers, who are extending helping hands to the victims.

"It is usually in times like this that the Filipino people are united in helping one another. Let us therefore unite as a Filipino community and give our share for the emer-

LITTLE BOX Page 2



# PINOYNEWS

## UPAA holds Leyte landslide fund drive

The University of the Philippines Alumni Association CNMI Chapter is calling on all its members and alumni of the University of the Philippines to lend a hand in providing assistance to the victims of the landslide that hit

Southern Leyte last week.

UPAA officer Aurora Sabangan had sent invitations to the group's members since Wednesday to ask for the group's support for a fundraiser spearheaded by the Overseas Filipino Workers Support

Group, whose chairperson is UPAA member Gabriel De Guzman.

"With our adviser, Fe Calixterio, [we] are appealing to your generosity to support their fund drive for the families affected by the Leyte land-

slide tragedy," she said.

Sabangan said the collection from the fund drive would be remitted to the Philippine National Disaster Coordinating council for purchase of food and emergency needs of the affected families and volunteer aid workers helping the beleaguered families in the Philippines.

Members and community members interested in helping out in this project can contact Fe Calixterio through her e-mail at [feclixterio@hotmail.com](mailto:feclixterio@hotmail.com) or De Guzman at [flash\\_babe@yahoo.com](mailto:flash_babe@yahoo.com). Sabangan also said they could reach welfare officer Mary Dait at the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration office at the Nauru Building. **(Marconi Calindas)**

### LITTLE BOX

FROM PAGE 1

agency and rehabilitation needs of the families affected by this tragedy," said the letter.

### SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 1

"It moved some 300 yards away. It's the same place that they found some notebooks, religious texts and also some pictures."

No survivors have been found in the farming village of Guinsaugon since hours after it was buried in mud up to 100 feet deep. Lerias said the official death toll stood at 129 with another 938 missing.

No one was talking about a miracle, not after earlier hopes were dashed when sounds detected underground at a different site late Monday yielded no further signs of life.

The school was the target of the rescue efforts from the start because of unconfirmed reports

The fundraising project is in collaboration with the OWWA office and the Philippine Consulate Office, both located in the Susupe landmark.

For more information on how

that survivors had sent mobile phone text messages from inside shortly after the landslide.

No photos of the school are available, but Lerias said officials believe the roof came from the building because of its color and elongated shape.

Officials have speculated that the wall of mud, boulders and trees from the collapse of a nearby mountainside could have swept the school away. More than 240 students and teachers were inside.

The area where the roof was found hasn't been explored because the mud is so wet. Rescue workers will head to the area early Friday despite the risks involved, which include pockets of water on what's left of the mountain that could cause more landslides.

to extend assistance for the affected families in the tragedy, donors can visit the OWWA office located at the ground floor of the Nauru Building in Susupe. **(Marconi Calindas)**

Special watchers will monitor the mountain, and rescue workers will carry communications gear. Preparations are being put in place to evacuate them quickly if needed.

Much of the mud throughout the 100-acre landslide zone remains unsettled, especially after the continued rains.

"We know there is real danger," Lerias said.

Philippine Maj. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos said water would be pumped out of the area, then a special team of highly qualified rescue workers would be airlifted to the spot.

The dangers were underscored earlier in the day when a group of rescue workers had to be rescued after getting stuck while trying to extricate a body.

### THE PROUD

FROM PAGE 1

flow that continued to devastate some homes in the area.

For months, she stayed at the evacuation center, trying to uplift the spirit and morale of the dislocated people. She recalled that people and children had nothing to do everyday but wait for the nature's wrath to subside so they could all go back home—if there were still homes to go back to, she said.

She said she and other social workers preoccupied people's minds with something productive so they wouldn't brood. "Let's improve our gardens here." "Let's plant some trees here." The people would then occupy themselves with gardening and planting trees while their children also helped.

When everything seemed better in the centers, she prepared to head back to Ifugao and continued her other social work in the Cordillera province. As she was about to leave, the

people pleaded with her not to leave them. "If not for you, we would not have survived," some of them said. Her other responsibilities prevented her, however, from staying longer so she had to go. As a present, some of the evacuees gave her a piece of soap and a towel. She said tears just ran down her face.

"I was deeply touched," Dait said, saying that these people have lost everything they had—their homes, their possessions, their land.

Until now, that soap and towel are displayed unused in her house in the Philippines to remind her of the people she had helped.

### The nurse turned social worker

Dait passed the grueling entrance exam for the prestigious University of the Philippines Diliman campus in Quezon City, the Philippines. She initially took up a nursing degree but ended up getting a bachelor's degree in Social Work instead. She quipped, "I realized I was afraid of blood during laboratory work."

In one of her school exposure trips to nursing homes and orphanage, it suddenly dawned on her that helping people would bring her more fulfillment as an individual. This prompted her to shift to another course that would provide her the skills and training to be effective in helping people.

When she graduated she immediately served her own hometown, working as a welfare assistant all the way up to being a social worker.

After 20 years of dedicated service to the department, she had another calling: to serve Filipinos who work outside the Philippines. She joined OWWA in 1994 as a consultant but in 1997 she became a welfare officer and had her first out-of-the-country deployment. She was assigned to Hong Kong.

Her responsibilities, though, were not limited to Hong Kong but also to Macau. She said every now and then she traveled to Macau to take care of the OFWs there. She served in Hong Kong for four and a half years.

She described her Hong Kong assignment as the hardest and most demanding work for any welfare officer. "[My peers] said that, if I passed Hong Kong, that's the test," she said.

She said when she left Hong Kong, there were more than 140,000 domestic helpers, not including Filipinos working as professionals.

Dait said she learned so many things during her deployment in Hong Kong. She had a better understanding and had a more open mind in dealing with the different problems of the Filipino overseas workers. "I learned to be more patient and be diplomatic with them."

The biggest case she has had to handle in Hong Kong happened in 1999, when an African man murdered a Filipino domestic helper. Dait was sent to handle the case and she said she was moved when her compatriots praised her on the way she handled the case. "I was so overwhelmed," she said, adding that she realized her importance to the Filipinos that time. She said the case was solved with the assistance of the Philippine government.

### Conquering Saipan

From the bustling city of Hong Kong, overshadowed by towering high-rise buildings, and a short stint in Dubai, a booming city at that time, she was then assigned to the island of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands.

When she got out of the Saipan airport, she said she thought she had a mistake in boarding the plane. She repeatedly asked her husband if they had boarded the right plane. Then she realized it was indeed Saipan, her new home.

She said the island is totally different from the countries she had worked in, but after two to three months, she had adjusted and fallen totally in love with the simplicity of the island.

"Here, we work 24-seven," she said, "extending assistance whenever it is urgently needed."

### The proud Ifugao

Dait is part of one of the oldest ethnic tribe and community in the Philippines, the Ifugaos. She said she is very proud of her roots because she owes her stature to the rich culture and her upbringing in her small town in Cordillera.

She said the Ifugao culture has become diluted due to modern influences but, although some practices are not evident now, the Ifugaos' values and traditions remain intact.

To some Filipinos here in the CNMI who also have tribal roots, she said they must be proud of their roots and not shy away because of their ethnicity. "Don't put yourselves down, always stand up and speak up. Be proud of our roots."




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# 'Family Fun Day' set for OFWs in NMI

Calling all Filipino nonresident workers in the CNMI. You are all invited—as well as all your friends—to a whole day of fun and games, and a chance to meet your fellow workers on the islands in an event called "Family Fun Day 2006."

The event will be held on March 19, 2006, Sunday, from 7am-5pm, at the American Memorial Park.

This "Family Fun Day 2006" is in coordination with all the leaders of

various Filipino organizations in the CNMI. Regular meetings are being conducted to ensure a meaningful and fun day for all.

The day will start with a simple ceremony and presentation of Filipino talents from different organizations and individuals. There will also be a singing and dance competition for children ages 7 to 12. The afternoon will be for various Filipino organizations to facilitate indoor and

outdoor games for kids, adults and families like obstacle course, sack race, family goes to market, paper dance, bring me contest, egg relay, longest line and many more.

Hourly fundraising raffle will also be a part of this fun day. Proceeds will be donated to the Tuloy-Aral Project of OWWA. The project aims to help children of former OFWs by providing them \$100 each for their miscellaneous school expenses like

notebooks, pencils, uniforms, etc.

All winners in the various fun games and raffle are to receive their prizes during the closing ceremony.

"We invite all OFWs, their families and friends to participate and have fun on March 19, 2006," the organizing committee said.

The OFW Support Group is composed of individual volunteers which aims, among others, in providing assistance to Overseas Workers Welfare

Administration and Philippine Overseas Labor Office in planning and implementing common community projects and activities which shall provide unity and foster friendship among the overseas Filipino workers in the CNMI.

For more details, contact:

- Marie Caamic at 287-7908
- Dang Bernabe 235-8922
- James Ignacio 285-7132
- OWWA Office c/o Eric 235-6992

## The Filipinos as IT professionals

By **MARCONI CALINDAS**  
REPORTER

The Philippines is now considered a "vast resource" of well-trained and highly educated Information and Communication Technology professionals.

Philippine government agency Philippine Overseas Employment Administration records show that over 300 Philippine schools and training centers are now providing students with computer training and learning technologies such as core concepts, software engineering skills and relevant technologies.

POEA said 80,000 Filipino graduates every year are technically equipped and have the natural ability to adapt to different work cultures.

"Most are trained in visual basic, Windows NT, C++, SQL, Oracle or Java," said POEA.

A recent publication being distributed at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Nauru Building said that, since Filipino workers are well known for their industry, talent and love for work, they are now considered a major workforce of the world. It said that most Filipino ICT professionals are involved in software development, specifically as programmers and systems analysts.

"They are into data design, computer networking, e-commerce, web development and multi-media application," said POEA.

Because of the technical skills of the Filipinos, POEA said Filipino ICT professionals are proficient in strategic planning, project management, customer service skills, interpersonal skills and creative thinking and presentation skills.

The Philippines is also recognized now as a major outsourcing center for companies in the United States, Japan and Europe. For the past years, the Philippine government has documented thousands of ICT professionals in more than 20 destinations worldwide, primarily in the USA, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

They are employed in companies that set up company intranets and extranets, operate communications facilities and manage information and communication technology projects. They are into ICT management, ICT consultancy and sales and marketing services.

POEA said the Philippine government continues to pursue the development of its human resources in the ICT sector because the government envisions the Philippines to be the leading E-Services Center in Asia.

## Appeal of RP Ambassador to US Albert Del Rosario

The Filipino nation mourns over the tragedy that struck Barangay Guinsaugon in St. Bernard, southern Leyte.

Massive landslides, triggered by an earthquake, buried more than 300 houses in the village. The number of casualties is expected to be in the hundreds even as about 1,500 are feared missing.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has already ordered the immediate mobilization of all government resources and coordinated relief and rescue operations by sea, land and air have been launched by the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

In response to the Philippine government's request for assistance, the United States government has dispatched two U.S. military ships and it will provide funds for the response efforts. The United Nations will send a special disaster team to assess needs in the calamity area and the government of Japan will likewise provide relief support. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies had released emergency funds to address the needs of the survivors.

I wish to appeal to all Filipinos, friends of the Philippines and concerned groups and individuals

to extend their helping hand to the victims of this tragedy.

The Philippine Embassy will accept donations in cash, check or money order. Donations should be made payable to the Philippine Embassy which will issue receipts for them. Checks may be mailed to the Philippine Embassy as follows: Attention: Ms. Cynthia Tayam, Philippine Embassy, 1600 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

The names of donors, the amounts donated and the dates why they were received will be posted in the Embassy website which is [www.philippineembassy-usa.org](http://www.philippineembassy-usa.org) and a regular progress report on this fund drive will be issued by the Embassy's Press and Information Section.

All donations collected by the Embassy will be transmitted to the NDCC in the humanitarian cause: Ms. Cynthia Tayam: DL (202) 467-9381 or [wdepefinance@aol.com](mailto:wdepefinance@aol.com) or Ms. Cecile Tomas: DL (202) 467-9403. They may also be reached through the Embassy trunkline which is (202) 467-9300.

The Philippine Embassy profoundly thanks all those who will respond to this appeal in the spirit of love and compassion for our fellow Filipinos.

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## THE BAYANI ASSOCIATION

# Upgrading the skills of the Filipino worker

By **MARCONI CALINDAS**  
REPORTER

Hundreds of Filipinos here in the CNMI, bound by a common purpose of upgrading their technical and culinary skills, came together to form a group that would foster camaraderie and friendship among them.

The Bayani Association was founded in July 8, 2001 when the alumni of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office's training and upgrading course gathered for a grand reunion at the Susupe Beach Park.

Board chair Edgardo Reyes recalled in one of his articles published in its newsletter last year that the organization was formed through exchanges of opinions, talents and skills of its members.

Reyes said the association started to improve the level of personality and skills of its members through projects and activities, in collaboration with the local Philippine office in the CNMI. Graduates of the upgrade training are automatically members of the group.

Vice-chair and president Daniel Nicomedes said the group was established to "uphold, preserve and promote the fundamental values and culture of the Filipinos through sharing of ideas and information among its members."

He added that the group intends to create and foster a spirit of understanding among the members and unite them through common values, culture, heritage, friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding. Through the organization, Nicomedes said, its members would also be able to take courses and training in their writing and literary skills.

The group also provides a venue for forums and publishes a quarterly newsletter for its members to discuss issues and information, and share knowledge and talents among them.

The group, said Nicomedes, also works hard to raise funds to help those in need, both in the CNMI and in the Philippines. The group has been supporting for two years now the education of one Filipino student in the Philippines, under the Overseas Workers Welfare Association and POLO project called "Tuloy Aral Program." Members of the group, he added, also participate in the program as individual donors.

Executive officers for the year 2005 to 2006 include: president Nicomedes, vice president Ma. Paz Caamic for internal and Ruel Balboa for external, secretary Cristina Lifofoi, assistant secretary Rosemarie Guirit-Agulto, treasurer Evans Contado, assistant treasurer Rosabella Cruz, auditor Leilani Garcia, PRO Fernan Enano and Dolores Mabuti, marshals Dionicio Fabula and Evangeline Batnag.

Editor Melvin J. Malvar and assistant editor Haidee Eugenio head the Bayani Association editorial board.

The board of directors is led by Reyes and Nicomedes. Board members include Hannah Schorr, Julie Abad, Anna de Guzman, Pauline G. Perez, Marvin Sacro and Joan Marquez. Instructors for the training are: Leopoldo Rodriquez Jr., Ma. Theresa de Jesus, Justino Sagcal, Jr., Cris Hilario Jr., Agosto Santos, Balboa and Marcelo Masilungan.

Past association presidents that served the group since 2001 are James Ignacio, Ener Pangelinan, Beethoven Sese and Flossie Baylon.



The officers of the Bayani Association pose for a souvenir picture.

## BAYANI REDUX

By **MARCONI CALINDAS**  
REPORTER

The Bayani Association, a Filipino group composed of Filipino members who participated in the Philippine Overseas Labor Office's upgrading and training courses, outlines at least six major contributions to the community last year.

Vice chair and president Daniel Nicomedes said one of the projects

spearheaded by the group was the contribution and donation to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 in its project of funding the operations of indigent Filipino children with cleft lip and palate. The group also came together to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina through the American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter.

"We also responded to the call of the Overseas Workers and Welfare Administration to assist displaced overseas Filipino workers by donating money," Nicomedes said.

The group also conducted basic news-writing and lay-outing seminars and

workshops under NMI journalist Haidee Eugenio and Mike Temperante. Bayani Association also has a monthly spiritual commitment to San Antonio Church by sponsoring a Mass every third Sunday of each month.

The group has also been sponsoring its basketball team in support of the United Filipino Organization's goal of promoting camaraderie among OFWs in the CNMI.

Nicomedes said that Bayani is continuously growing and he thanks all members and officers for their support for all projects.

## May angal ka ba sa amo mo?

By **MARCONI CALINDAS**  
REPORTER

May reklamo ka ba sa amo mo? May dapat ka bang ipaalam sa awtoridad tulad ng pagmamalabis sa iyong karapatan bilang manggagawa dito sa CNMI?

Ayon sa Philippine Overseas Labor Office at Konsulado ng Pilipinas sa CNMI, kung mayroon ang isang Overseas Filipino Worker, na naninilbihan sa Saipan, na reklamo ng pagmamalabis

tulad ng hindi nagpapasahod sa tamang oras, kinakaltasan kahit hindi ito nakasaad sa kontrata, o lumalabag sa iba pang probisyon ng kanilang kontrata at sa kanilang mga karapatan, nararapat lamang ito na ipaalam kaagad sa CNMI Division of Labor.

"Dapat kang pumunta sa CNMI Division of Labor at ipaalam sa kanila ang iyong problema sa iyong employer," ayon sa lathalain ipinamamahagi ng POLO sa kanilang

opisina sa Susupe. Dagdag pa nito na ang imbestigador ay makikinig sa kanilang mga reklamo. Magbibigay din sila ng mga payo kung ano ang dapat nilang gawin.

Ang bawat OFW ay pinapayuhan ding maghanda ng isang sulat na naglalahad ng kanilang pangalan, passport number, pangalan ng employer, reklamo at contact number. Ang sulat ay dapat iabot sa imbestigador at ang reklamong ito ay dapat mah-

anapan ng solusyon sa loob ng 30 araw, ayon sa CNMI Division of Labor kung saan ang kanilang opisina ay matatagpuan sa Afetna Building sa San Antonio.

"Ang batas ay nagsasaad ng anim na buwan na 'statute of limitations' kaya kailangan na ang reklamo ay maisampa sa loob ng panahon na ito," ayon sa lathalain. Kung hindi ito maisampa agad, ang reklamo ng isang OFW ay maaring hindi na maaksyonan.



Officers of the Bayani Association hold one of their meetings on the ground floor of the Nauru Building in Susupe.

## LABOR FRONT

### Work permit as souvenir?

By **FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE**  
REPORTER

**Q: Do alien workers have the right to reject the barracks offered by their employers?**

**A:** Yes. Nonresident workers are not obligated to accept housing provided by their employers. The workers may choose to arrange their own housing, including living with friends and relatives.

**Q: If an alien worker is leaving the CNMI for good, can he or she keep his or her work permit as some kind of "souvenir"?**

**A:** No. Guest workers should surrender their work permit to their employers when they are leaving the Commonwealth permanently. The workers should also surrender the permit to the employers when their contracts are being renewed.

**Q: Are employers required to provide alien workers with transportation to and from the office?**

**A:** Unless otherwise agreed to in the employment contract, the employers are required to provide the workers with transportation to and from the work

site. The employers are required to pay the cost of return transportation to the country the workers are hired from and cannot deduct the cost from the wages. Neither can the employers deduct from the wages the cost of transportation to the CNMI from the country the workers are hired from.

Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the *Saipan Tribune's* office on the second floor of the Century Insurance Building on Beach Road, Garapan.



# PINOYSTYLE



Philippines President Corazon Aquino, bottom center, faces a crowd of more than a million in this March 2, 1986 file photo in Rizal Park in Manila after the "people power" ousted former President Ferdinand Marcos from 20 years in power.

## Recalling danger, drama of 'people power'

By DAVID BRISCOE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

I felt a sense of danger throughout the "people power" revolt that removed President Ferdinand Marcos after two decades of U.S.-backed authoritarian rule. But there were no mass killings, no serious armed clashes, no cruel reprisals against the deposed regime.

Even nearly a decade in the Philippines—as a Peace Corps volunteer at the start of Marcos' rule and Manila bureau chief for The Associated Press at the end in 1986—inadequately prepared me for the dramatic events that unfolded over those four February days 20 years ago this week.

Through three sleepless nights, we chronicled high-level defections, defiant pronouncements, soldiers switching loyalties, increasingly concerned statements from Washington and the growing crowds of ordinary Filipinos who played the key role in Marcos's downfall.

My Filipino wife and our four small children were holed up in the Manila Hilton, just blocks

from Marcos' beleaguered Malacanang Palace. Reporters and photographers under my supervision covered the street demonstrations that many feared would turn deadly.

Soldiers' loyalties were split, businessmen risked their livelihoods to take to the streets, the Catholic Church aligned solidly against the regime and longtime Marcos loyalists switched sides. Hundreds of thousands poured into the streets to hold back advancing government forces.

But in a city full of guns, there were only a few more than a dozen fatalities by the time it was over.

In typical Philippine style, events unfolded like a festival. The street crowds brought food and music. Marcos staged an extraordinary TV appearance from the palace, warning his own military chief not to use heavy artillery against the rebels and admitting his family was "cowering in fear."

His wife, Imelda, sang her last love song as first lady. Crowds chanted "Cory! Cory!" for their next leader.

Suddenly, after years of

American concern that the final showdown for the Philippines might pit a pro-American government against communist rebels, the last act for Marcos played on a far different stage.

One of the triggers was the August 1983 brazen assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino as he arrived from seven years of U.S. exile and was hustled off a plane by Marcos soldiers at the Manila airport that now bears his name.

Marcos maintained until his death in Hawaiian exile in 1989 that he did not order the killing.

Unrest sparked by the assassination culminated in the slow count after a Feb. 9 election pitting Marcos against Aquino's widow, Corazon. Both claimed

victory. Aquino called for boycotts and civil disobedience.

The revolt ignited on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 22, when longtime Marcos loyalist Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos announced a break with the government.

Suddenly, the assumption that Marcos could manipulate events in his favor was no longer valid.

With his feared military chief, Gen. Fabian Ver, poised to attack the rebels, foreign and local reporters—including AP's Ruben Alabastro—embedded themselves with the rebels in a suburban military camp.

The nature of the rebellion remained unclear until later in the evening when Enrile and Ramos

said they were backing Aquino as the duly elected president.

On Monday, we watched as the man who seemed to have controlled everything for 20 years was knocked off the government TV channel in mid-sentence. Rebels cheerfully appeared in his place a few hours later, having commandeered the government's main media outlet.

Still, Marcos was defiant, coming back on another station and insisting he won the election and would be inaugurated the next day. It would be his last in the Philippines.

Aquino, shedding her role as demure widow, was equally defiant, scheduling her own inauguration the same day.

Each was sworn in by a member of the Supreme Court. Each was cheered. Each was flanked by ardent supporters—Marcos by his wife and son Bong Bong in military fatigues, and Aquino by Enrile, Ramos and other future government figures.

I'd taken a chance that Aquino's inauguration would set the course for the country and witnessed it standing atop a folding chair amid the strains of the opposition anthem, "Bayan Ko."

The AP staff and my family were hanging on in a city in turmoil, in a country with two inaugurated presidents, with rival military forces lined up against each other, with no guarantee that it wouldn't all blow up.

But it didn't.

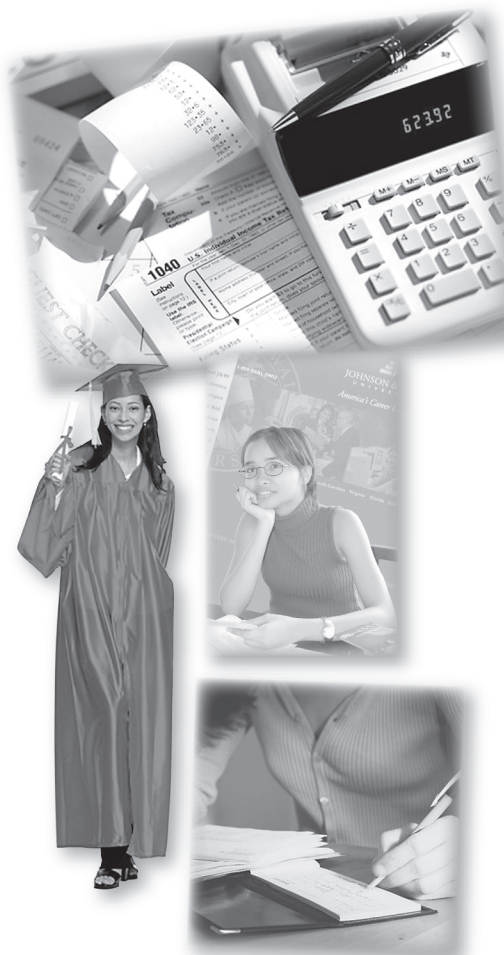
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# 'People power' fails to end poverty, corruption

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—The images of "people power" are iconic: nuns kneeling in prayer in front of tanks, and unarmed civilians trying to push back military vehicles with their bare hands. The show of bravery hid the fear that many felt at a turning point in Philippine history.

"I was waiting for those nuns to scamper away," recalled Agapito Aquino, brother of Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader assassinated during martial rule. "I could not be the first to run away, I would lose face. We stayed because it was too embarrassing to run."

Twenty years after authoritarian President Ferdinand Marcos' ouster, the Philippines is an unruly democracy with a vigorous press but that is still afflicted by poverty, corruption and violence.

Opposition groups planned protests on Feb. 25 against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who faces accusations of election-rigging as well as coup rumors. Her government is struggling to coordinate its response to a massive landslide that wiped out a village last week, with 1,000 feared dead.

For all the problems of this former U.S.-held territory, the legacy of the peaceful grass roots movement that toppled Marcos after years of repression is a source of pride and national identity.

The euphoric festival of "people power" contrasts with the political tumult that struck other parts of Asia: Indonesia's violent transition from authoritarian rule in 1998, or the 1989 pro-democracy campaign in China's Tiananmen Square that ended when soldiers gunned down student protesters.

But the outcome of peaceful opposition to Marcos was far from certain, coming years ahead of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the former Soviet Union. Moreover, the Philippine protesters' bold move in 1986 after years of human rights violations was more opportunistic than carefully planned.

Suspicion that Marcos was preparing for one-man rule began in August 1971 when he suspended the writ of habeas corpus, allowing police to make arrests without warrants.

Marcos imposed martial law in September 1972, a year before his second and final term was to expire. For the next 14 years, he ruled by decree. Thousands were jailed, and many dissidents were killed by security forces, or vanished.

On Feb. 7, 1986, snap presidential elections that were marred by fraud galvanized protesters.



**Philippines Presidential candidate Corazon Aquino, left, and running mate Salvador Laurel flash the thumbs down sign under a four-storey high bust of then President Ferdinand Marcos during their campaign stop in La Union province in northern Philippines in this Jan. 2, 1986 file photo, about three months before the "people power" ousted the Marcos from 20 years in power.**

✎ Marcos had been challenged by Corazon Aquino, Benigno's widow. She claimed widespread cheating and called for civil disobedience.

Elements of the military, Marcos' one-time instrument of repression, then triggered his downfall.

Agapito Aquino was at a party drinking with friends on Feb. 22, when he heard then-Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and military Vice Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos demand at a news conference that Marcos resign.

Opposition leaders were suspicious of the split between Marcos and his former supporters. One then-senator advised Aquino: "Let them shoot each other."

"I said, 'The enemy of my enemy is my ally,' and so we must help this breakaway group so that they will continue to break," Aquino recalled.

The plan was to assemble people outside the Isetann Department store and march to the two camps where the military rebels were based to discourage Marcos and his loyalist troops from attacking.

Aquino said he went to the store about an hour before midnight and found only five other people there. "I didn't know whether these were rallyists or spies," he said.

Others began trickling in, then dozens more, then hundreds. By midnight, the march had started with several thousand in tow.

"It was easy to be courageous because when you moved forward, there would be hundreds if not thousands behind you," Aquino said.

Manila Archbishop Cardinal Jaime Sin had spoken on radio, urging Filipinos to protect the breakaway faction of the military. Franciscan nuns immediately headed for a highway near the military camps to set up a food brigade for protesters of bread, hard-boiled eggs and hot dogs.

By dawn, tens of thousands had assembled in front of the military camps. The crowd grew to several hundred thousand—1 million by some estimates—during the four-day revolt.

Later Sunday, Marcos sent marines in tanks to intimidate the crowd, and rumors spread that loyalist troops would shell the rebels. But the people didn't budge and the soldiers held their fire.

Lawyer Nasser Marohomsalic, a member of a clandestine Muslim group that opposed Marcos, went to the rally with his wife, son and neighbors. He said most of the protesters were not activists, but ordinary citizens.

## Rice and shine with these recipes

The Philippine Rice Research Institute has just released "Rice Recipes in the Philippines," a celebration of the versatility of rice in the Filipino diet.

The book offers a wide variety of recipes from snacks to meals, some already well-known, others regional and a few innovative.

The soft-bound edition sells for P200 while the hard-bound costs P325. To order, e-mail [actaguinod@philrice.gov.ph](mailto:actaguinod@philrice.gov.ph).

Wrapped in different ways, suman is a mixture of glutinous rice, coconut milk and salt. Suman sa ibos is packed in palm leaves while suman sa antala is wrapped in wilted banana leaves. The suman may be served with ripe mangoes and hot chocolate.

### Suman sa Ibos

3 c glutinous rice  
3 tsp salt  
2 c coconut milk

Soak glutinous rice in water until grains are swollen. Wash rice and drain. Add salt and coconut milk.

Fill 2/3 of the palm tube containers. Close opening of the tube by pinning ends together with a piece of bamboo

pick (about 1/3 the size of a toothpick). Tie each suman with strips of buri.

Arrange in a deep kettle with water and cover container. Boil suman for two hours or until cooked.

### Suman sa Antala

In a rice cooker, combine glutinous rice, coconut milk and salt. Cook until rice is done. Transfer cooked rice to a bowl and cool slightly.

Knead cooked rice. Put 2 tbsp cooked rice in wilted banana leaves, roll and fold both ends. Arrange in a steamer and cook for 30 minutes.

### Suman sa Lihya

2 c glutinous rice  
1 1/2 c water  
1 tbsp lye

A delicacy from Nueva Ecija, suman sa lihya is made from glutinous rice soaked in lye. It is best enjoyed with freshly grated coconut, sugar and a cup of coffee.

In a medium bowl, wash glutinous rice and drain excess water. Add water and lye and mix thoroughly until the green color becomes even.

Over low heat, cook glutinous rice in

a wok. Transfer to a platter and let cool.

Put 3 tbsp cooked rice in a wilted banana leaf and wrap. Fold both ends. Tie pieces in pairs with the folded part facing each other.

Arrange in a steamer and cook for 30 minutes. Cool and serve with sugar and grated coconut.

### Espasol

1 1/2 c glutinous rice flour  
Flour  
3/4 c white sugar  
2 c coconut milk

A popular delicacy of Laguna and Quezon, espasol can be given a distinct taste by adding favorite flavorings such as pandan, buko or langka.

In a medium pan, toast flour over medium heat until slightly brown; transfer to a bowl and set aside.

In another pan, pour coconut milk and sugar and bring to a boil. Add toasted flour, leaving 1/4 cup for dusting. Continue stirring until the mixture becomes dry and sticky.

Transfer to a plastic wrap and knead until smooth. Mold espasol and cut into desired size. Roll on a floured board.

INQUIRER

## Young dad Jolo Revilla 'free' but not carefree

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**  
INQUIRER

Is it true that a pretty correspondent of ABS-CBN in General Santos was sacked when news leaked that she has a love child by Manny Pacquiao? Since Pacman is a "Kapamilya," perhaps the network just wanted to do some damage control. After Joanna Rose Bacosa came out in the open about having another Pacquiao baby, will the news reporter make an expose, too? Are there any more out there? If this were a boxing match, I wonder how many more rounds before Manny gets knocked out and shouts, "I didn't knock her up!"

### Guess list

□ Guess who this gaunt TV host/actress is. She's so pissed at her former workmate (a model turned TV personality) for squealing on her. She lost rackets/gigs when word got around that she's hooked on drugs. The actress also knows a lot of her former co-star's dark secrets. Will she retaliate and spill the beans, too?

□ Guess who this wife of a sportsman/actor is. While she was shopping on Rodeo Drive, the saleslady of a ritzy

boutique was flabbergasted when she demanded, "I want to buy the original bag!" Maybe she forgot that she was in Beverly Hills, not Greenhills.

### Dad Jolo

I cornered my "godbrother" Jolo Revilla and asked if it's true that he's courting Pauleen Luna.

He clarified, "No, I'm not. I like her [but] I'm not ready for another commitment. I'd rather focus on my son, Gab. Grace and I are both free."

He's free but not carefree because he doesn't take his fatherly duties lightly. Jolo is relieved that his relationship with Grace's mom, Rosanna Roces, is no longer strained "I get to visit Gab once a week. Tita Osang is around when I go there—no more tension. I take Gab to the mall sometimes. I bring him monthly to the pedia for his checkup. Hopefully someday soon, mahihiram ko rin siya at maiuwi sa bahay namin even for a few days."

The young dad proudly adds "My son can walk and talk already! His first word was Dada." Will he allow Gab to do TV commercials like other celebrity kids? Jolo smiled, "It's all up to her Lola Osang."



# OPINYON

## Nostalgia trip

Since July last year, different sectors disaffected with the government of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo have tried to harness People Power behind the campaign to overthrow her, with disappointing results.

In the commemoration this week of the 20th anniversary of the first People Power in 1986, faint echoes of this campaign have resurfaced, including widespread rumors of coup plots in the run-up to the anniversary, but these have been drowned by noise of a different kind: loud reminiscences of groups which played conspicuous roles in the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship.

For these groups, this week is a nostalgia trip recalling the glorious success of Edsa People Power I. The celebration has become a grand reunion of the Edsa I old boys' club of the alumni of the movement that toppled a dictatorship. It's now time to bask in the memory, but it's also time to ask: Will People Power happen again with the same results as Edsa I? The success of Edsa I stands in contrast to the lack of success of attempts during the past eight months to replicate it.

Since February 1986, there have been two people power outbreaks: in January 2001 and in May 2001. The second deposed President Joseph Estrada. The third, on May 1, 2001, was violent. A mob of Estrada supporters stormed Malacañang, but the rebellion was quickly crushed.

We must note that the February 1986 and January 2001 people power uprisings were relatively peaceful, resulting in two presidents being toppled without blood being shed. Since then, the character of people power—basically non-violent—has changed, and after May 2001, the people power movements have become more unruly and turbulent, raising questions whether attempts to revive people power

as a mode to change government could be as peaceful as the first two events.

The failure of the campaign to bring a mass of people to the streets to oust President Arroyo has been glibly explained as people power fatigue, but in my opinion, this explanation does not raise the correct questions. The questions that should be asked is why has people power, modeled on People Power I and II, failed to work on Ms Arroyo?

True, Ms Arroyo could be as unpopular or as fiercely reviled as Ferdinand Marcos and Estrada, but we ask, what was it in Marcos and Estrada that sent people to the streets en masse? Why can't groups that have been working on the crowds to go to the streets inflame them with the same rage that drove the crowds that ousted Marcos and Estrada? What is it that makes Ms Arroyo different and that has allowed her to stonewall and survive during the past eight months, despite persistent efforts of her enemies to bring her down?

The coalitions that have combined against the Arroyo regime represent cross-sector interests, including the core of the opposition to the regime

since the last election (mainly the losers in that election), a variety of civil society groups, former allies of Ms Arroyo, disgruntled military officers some of whom staged mutinies, and lately, former President Corazon Aquino and a group of activist and outspoken Catholic bishops who have been in front of the noise brigade denouncing alleged rigging of the last election results, based on the infamous Garcillano tapes.

The composition of the ranks coalesced against Ms Arroyo reflects a broad base, and we can't complain about their passion for change and their conviction that she should be changed. But why can't they mobilize a critical mass that is impressive enough to influence the

military to intervene and break the protracted political impasse?

The campaign to oust Ms Arroyo has been trying to get the constituency that formed the groundswell that swept out Marcos and Estrada. But it has not touched a resonance with that constituency.

What issues are different today from the issues of 1986 and 2001? Have people changed their priorities? What issues matter to them today?

Haven't those who want to relive their successes of 1986 and 2001 come to believe that people power is a static formula for political change fit for all occasions? Times have changed since Marcos and Estrada. Issues that have resonance with the people have changed. Maybe those who have been disappointed by the lack of response to their campaign to oust Ms Arroyo have to look for new issues and examine carefully what factors have emerged that allow her to stonewall.

The political terrain has shifted since 1986. The current anti-Arroyo coalition is trying to engage her in battle over the same terrain of 1986 and 2001, employing the same tactics and strategy.

But this coalition cannot use the success against Marcos and Estrada as the formula against Ms Arroyo. Both Marcos and Estrada had legitimacy problem. They lost legitimacy due to governance issues, like corruption and abuse of power. There is a legitimacy issue against Ms Arroyo over the alleged election-rigging scandal.

Perhaps we have to ask ourselves whether people power as a method of political change has worn thin, and more importantly, whether we are taking it too much for granted that whatever prescriptions for change offered by the politically active class will be followed by the people. After all, it may be safe to say that most of the people want change and for the better. Historically, the political class has taken for granted the intelligence of the masses. The masses know best what's good for them, but they were never integrated into the Edsa movements. They have been marginalized by people power.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Islam and terrorism are not the issue

I do not condone the violent protests that some Muslims have mounted against the cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed. However, I cannot tolerate and accept in my heart the cartoons. Any drawing, cartoon or symbol depicting the Prophet is forbidden by Islamic law since this is tantamount to promoting idolatry.

Israel and Palestine have been at war since God knows when, but they never crossed the line of insulting each other's religious belief. Such is the unwritten law that even the freedom of expression must not violate.

You do not disgrace Buddha, Jesus Christ (also considered by Islam as one of its prophets), Moses or the Pope in the same way that you do not disgrace the Prophet of Islam.

The issue here is not about terrorism or Islamic fundamentalism, but about respect and human co-existence. Although there is disparity in the manner of expressing their anger and outrage, the Muslims around the world have been unified by the cartoon issue.

Instead of contributing to peace, the controversial newspaper has put to waste whatever achievements had been made to promote peace in the world.

To all Muslims in the world, let us pray that Allah may give us the patience and tolerance that the Prophet Mohammed would have displayed in this most difficult time in our lives.

**Normina Musor-Datudacula**  
via e-mail



### Analysis

By **AMANDO DORONILA**  
INQUIRER

## Aids to memory

While most people associate February with Valentine's, I have been remembering two events in our history that also happened in February. On the 4th, we commemorate the outbreak of the Philippine-American War that began with a bang in 1899. An old stone bridge in San Juan used to be the focus of attention on this day, until we moved the site, based on better research, to a little corner in Sta. Mesa, to Sociego Street off Magsaysay Boulevard. On February 17th, we commemorate the execution of Gomez, Burgos and Zamora who were killed with the garrote in what is now Rizal Park in 1872.

If you stand in front of the Rizal monument, you will see a squat white obelisk (very badly done actually) behind and to the left of the Rizal monument that marks the spot where Gomburza were dispatched with that terrifying instrument called the garrote. Contrary to popular belief, the victim placed in a garrote is not killed by slow strangulation; rather death was supposedly quick, and relatively painless, following the breaking of the neck. A metal bar was placed snugly against the victim's neck and, at a given signal, the executioner gave a screw a swift turn and the victim was dead. Since nobody

has survived to tell us that this contraption was painless, we presume it was a humane way of execution.

Gomburza were buried in Paco Cemetery, and there they lie forgotten, except for simple commemorations held in Rizal Park every Feb. 17. I have since asked the Archbishop of Manila, Gaudencio (now Cardinal-elect) Rosales, to lead an even simpler commemoration next year in Paco. There will be no boring speeches from historians or politicians; instead Cardinal Rosales could pray the Office of the Dead and sprinkle holy water on the graves, together with the secular clergy who owe a lot to Gomburza and should be made to remember their sacrifice in 1872.

To illustrate how much we have forgotten Gomburza, many years ago a ladies toilet was erected over their common grave. It took a foreigner to call my attention to this. When I told then Manila Mayor Alfredo S. Lim about it, the toilet was removed within a few hours.

What made this act terrible was that there were a lot of other spots within Paco Cemetery where the toilet could have been built. Why did it have to be over the grave of Gomburza? These three men inspired so many of our heroes, including Rizal and Bonifacio.

When Mariano Gil, parish priest of Tondo, exposed the Katipunan and thus jump-started the Philippine Revolution, there was a wave of arrests, searches and seizures all over Manila. The items found—from daggers to Katipunan papers and documents—were all kept as evidence. One of

the things I would most want to see are some zinc-lined boxes buried in one place that contained:

"...Several Katipunan documents, three ribbons from the cassocks of the three native priests executed in 1872 for complicity in the revolt of that year, ribbons that were preserved as relics by the rebels. A picture of General Izquierdo, who ordered the execution of the three priests, was also found; and a Masonic apron upon which was

painted the severed head of a Spaniard held by the hair by a Filipino hand."

Another friar, Celestino de las Huertas, OFM, sent a communication to his superiors in Madrid regarding the outbreak of the Revolution in 1896, where he mentioned the contents of Andres Bonifacio's "secret chest" found in the ceiling of the warehouse of Fressell and Co. where Bonifacio worked as a bodeguero. The contents of this chest were:

"[Documents detailing the] complete organization of the Filipino Republic, also official decrees, rebel appointments, regulations of the republic, civil and penal codes written in tagalog and Spanish. There were also found photographs of Padre Burgos, Padre Gomez, and Padre Zamora. Of Padre Burgos there were several and on the back of an old one is the picture of General Gandara.

"Among the regalia were found as relics pieces of the gowns used during the executions of 1872 and written on each piece into which the relics are divided is the name of the rebel to which they belonged, that of Padre Burgos being the most highly prized as it is given only to reward very meritorious services."

I have always been fond of relics because they are one way to remind

us of our heroes. Some people even have to be reminded that heroes were real people who once walked the earth like you and me. Once I brought my students to the crypt of San Agustin Church and pointed out the niche where the remains of Juan Luna were deposited. Most of the students looked at it and walked away, but one girl stood in front of the niche for a long time. I presumed she was in awe or reverence of a great artist and patriot, so I asked her what she was thinking. She replied, "*Totoong tao pala iyang si Luna* (So Luna was a real man after all)."

The remark surprised me, and I wanted to tell her, "Who told you Luna was not real?" But I left her there to reflect on her observation.

This was a UP student, one of the best and brightest in the country. If she thought this way, it makes me shudder to even imagine what students think in other parts of the archipelago.

If you want to see a really bizarre relic, go to Fort Santiago and see the preserved backbone of Rizal in a display case.

Relics and history are aids to memory.

Comments are welcome at [aocampo@ateneo.edu](mailto:aocampo@ateneo.edu).



### Looking Back

By **AMBETH OCAMPO**  
INQUIRER



# SAMU'T SARI

**MOVER on its 6th Sunday In-shore Drainage Cleanup/Restoration Project along Susupe Lake Road Sponsored by giant MOBIL Oil Mariana Islands.**

Mary Dait of Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and Bing La Villa of Philippine Overseas Labor Office both congratulated the group for sharing their day-off for cleanup activities in this beautiful island of Saipan. Right, MOVER president Jun Lapeceros.



The group posed for a picture together with the visiting dignitaries. Ninth from right is Rotarian Judge Juan T. Lizama, Director for Community Activities and Services. Rotary Club of Saipan has committed to help the group.



The group removes debris and cut the flying branches that are covering the open drainage.



The group taking a snack break.

## BIRTHDAY GET-TOGETHER

Ferdie Santos, third from right, holds a belated birthday get-together with friends. The event was also to welcome him to the islands. The group was also celebrating the birthday of Dorry Gabutero, third from left. In picture are, from left, Bing and Elmer Chavez, Gabutero, Merlyn del Rosario, Gina Pabellon, Santos, Lanie Matillano, and Vanni Versoza.